

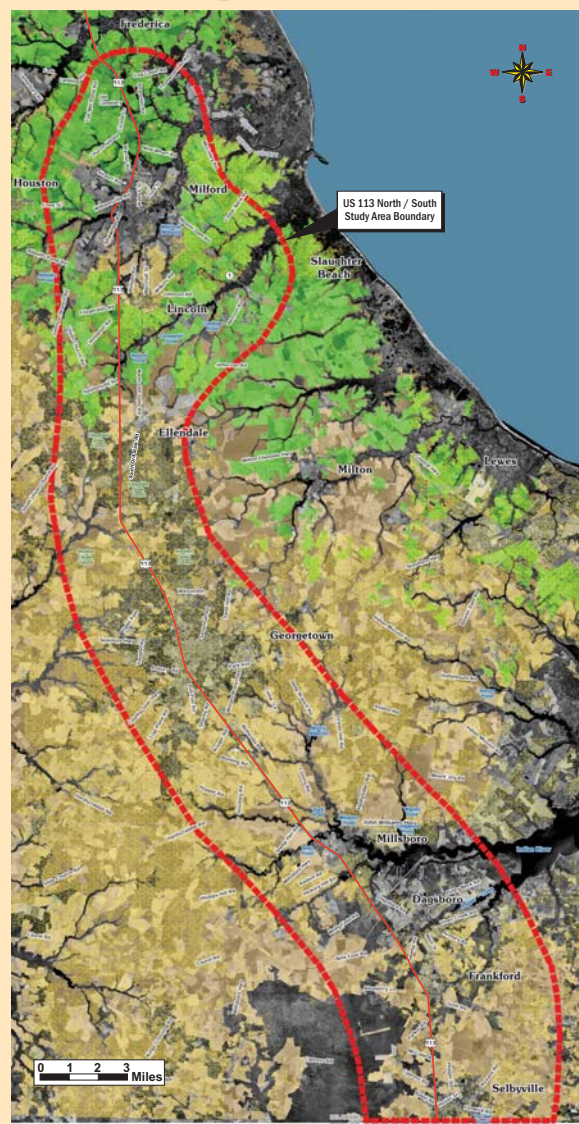
AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

FINAL
October 29, 2003

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113 US 113 North / South Study

Prime Agricultural Areas



Farmland Preservation

The Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program began in 1991 with the following objectives:

- To preserve a critical mass of crop land, forest land and open space to sustain Delaware's agricultural industry and quality of life
- To provide landowners an opportunity to preserve their land in the face of increasing development pressures and decreasing commodity values

Agricultural Preservation





Once an Agricultural Preservation District is designated by the Delaware Department of Agriculture, landowners may choose to participate in the Agricultural Lands Preservation Program. An Agricultural Preservation District is:

- 200 or more contiguous acres devoted to agricultural and related uses, or
- less than 200 acres, but within 3 miles of an existing district, which is considered a district expansion

Landowners within the Agricultural Preservation District agree to not develop their lands for at least 10 years. In exchange, they receive tax benefits, right-to-farm protection, and an opportunity to sell an agricultural preservation easement to the state.

Many of the farms selected for preservation easements are contiguous to already protected land and complement open space preservation efforts by creating natural buffers between development and open spaces.

Delaware Agriculture Statistics

Agricultural Products	Delaware's Rank Among US States	Sussex County's Rank Among US Counties*
Poultry 	8	1
Watermelons 	15	11
Snap Beans 	17	13
Green Peas 	7	13

* There are 3,141 counties within the United States

Preserved Agricultural Properties

